

PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, MAY, 1947.

This bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of May, 1947. The tabulations show districts of residence, together with causes of unemployment and industries within each district. The information which follows covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for benefit are awaiting consideration or those who do not apply for benefit. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The May figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 3,935 males and 151 females, the total of 4,086 being 3,506 less than the peak figure of 7,592 for February, but 1,186 over October, 1946.

	<u>End of Month.</u>		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1946 -	October		2,814	86	2,900
	November		3,570	94	3,664
	December		5,971	168	6,139
1947 -	January		7,262	228	7,490
	February		7,394	198	7,592
	March		6,505	184	6,689
	April		4,698	149	4,847
	May		3,935	151	4,086

Figures earlier than October do not give a normal comparison as they were inflated by strikes of earlier months; whilst the figures for the early months of 1947 were considerably affected by seasonal unemployment. February recorded the highest number on unemployment benefit for this season; and, as seasonal industries continued re-employing displaced workers during May, the number at the end of that month on benefit had decreased considerably.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of May was 151, compared with 149 for April. The Brisbane District figure, 45, was the highest figure recorded for any one district for the month. Rockhampton District had 21 females drawing unemployment benefit at the end of May, Mackay 18, Bundaberg 15, and the balance of 52 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

Causes of unemployment are given below for the months of October, February (the peak month), April, and May, together with the increase or decrease during May for each cause.

<u>Cause of Unemployment.</u>	<u>October,</u> <u>1946.</u>	<u>February,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>April,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>Increase (+)</u> <u>or Decrease (-)</u> <u>in May.</u>
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy	109	100	95	74	- 21
Inefficiency, incompetence	112	144	109	96	- 13
Establishment closed, reduction of staff ..	491	854	741	583	- 158
Replaced by re-instated servicemen	116	131	99	76	- 23
Shortage of materials ..	130	252	187	189	+ 2
Seasonal work and weather conditions	276	3,327	1,489	1,181	- 308
Casual work	495	958	796	650	- 146
Discharged or laid off for other reasons ..	438	514	296	278	- 18
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc.	231	440	379	373	- 6
Quitted for other reasons	179	324	263	242	- 21
Not previously employed ..	323	548	393	344	- 49
	2,900	7,592	4,847	4,086	- 761

The number of persons drawing unemployment benefit in April due to the seasonal nature of their work decreased in May by 308, with smaller decreases for other causes, with the exception of "Shortage of Materials", for which a small increase (2) was recorded. The peak of seasonal unemployment for the State was passed in February, although it was March before the northern sugar districts recorded their highest figures; and the decreases in these districts during May, combined with the decrease in meatworks unemployment in the Townsville district, accounted for most of the 308 decrease in seasonal unemployment. The movements are illustrated in the following statement which shows the number of persons drawing benefit in each district in October, 1946, the number in the month up to May 1947 which showed the highest level of unemployment, and the number in May 1947, together with the increase from October 1946 to the seasonal peak, and the subsequent decrease. It will be seen that southern districts (except Bundaberg, where the number of unemployed increased by 62 in May) had generally reabsorbed seasonally displaced labour before May, but that some of the northern districts (particularly Mackay, Innisfail, and Cairns) still had a substantial pool of labour waiting for reabsorption at that date.

District.	October, 1946.	Peak of Seasonal Unemployment to May, 1947.	May, 1947.	Increase October to Peak.	Decrease Peak to May.
Brisbane ..	1,401	2,065 (Feb. 1947)	1,441	664	624
Ipswich ..	154	190 (Dec. 1946)	57	36	133
Gympie ..	21	30 (Feb. 1947)	27	9	3
Maryborough ..	127	221 (Jan. 1947)	69	94	152
Bundaberg ..	101	596 (Jan. 1947)	450	495	146
Toowoomba ..	94	177 (Feb. 1947)	118	83	59
Warwick ..	23	42 (Dec. 1946)	20	19	22
Roma ..	10	24 (Dec. 1946)	6	14	18
Charleville ..	44	75 (Dec. 1946)	16	31	59
Rockhampton ..	345	1,462 (Jan. 1947)	351	1,117	1,111
Emerald ..	1	10 (Jan. 1947)	5	9	5
Longreach ..	12	117 (Dec. 1946)	22	105	95
Mackay ..	229	861 (Mar. 1947)	648	632	213
Ayr ..	10	233 (Feb. 1947)	44	223	189
Townsville ..	127	616 (Mar. 1947)	120	489	496
Ingham ..	7	440 (Mar. 1947)	23	433	417
Innisfail ..	15	368 (Mar. 1947)	256	353	112
Cairns ..	77	599 (Mar. 1947)	259	522	340
Charters Towers	69	182 (Feb. 1947)	118	113	64
Atherton ..	30	78 (Mar. 1947)	27	48	51
Hughenden ..	3	52 (Feb. 1947)	9	49	43
Total State	2,900	7,592 (Feb. 1947)	4,086	4,692	3,506

Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. 1) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. Although the Moreton Division numbers are the highest, they represent a smaller proportion of the district population than is the case for any other Division, except the Downs and South West. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population shows the highest figures for the north coast sugar areas from Mackay to Cairns, although the rate for these areas was much lower than for March when seasonal unemployment was at its height there. The improvement in May in these districts was, however, not so much in the sugar districts as in Townsville, through the decline in the numbers unemployed from meatworks.

Industries by Districts.

Table No. 11 shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying industries have the highest total (22 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit), and the bulk of this is in sugar farming areas. This is followed by food and drink factories (largely meatworks and sugar mills), and building and construction.

During May, in the north coast sugar areas, there was a decrease of 165 from farms, 220 from food factories (mainly from Townsville meatworks), and 78 from building and construction. In Rockhampton, unemployment from food factories (largely meatworks and butter factories) decreased by 23. In the south coast sugar areas, field labour unemployment increased by 60, and food and drink factory unemployment by 33. The numbers were widely distributed through the other industry groups in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Townsville districts.

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28th August, 1947.

TABLE I. PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND, MAY, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off								Quitted.		Not previously employed.	Total.	
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.		Number.	Per 10,000 population.
Brisbane ..	30	66	322	40	80	79	188	166	194	99	177	1,441	
Rockhampton ..	2	2	7	.	3	6	12	7	5	4	9	57	
Moreton ..	32	68	329	40	83	85	200	173	199	103	186	1,498	28
Wympie ..	.	.	3	2	16	2	.	.	1	1	2	27	
Warwick ..	2	1	8	1	1	15	18	7	5	5	6	69	
Wundaberg ..	.	3	22	3	19	337	97	3	26	19	21	450	
S.E.Coastal	2	4	33	6	36	254	115	10	32	25	29	546	49
Bowamba ..	2	5	19	5	10	6	25	10	16	9	11	118	
Warwick ..	1	1	6	.	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	20	
Woma ..	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	3	.	.	.	6	
Charleville	.	.	.	.	.	10	4	.	.	1	1	16	
Downs and S.W.	3	6	25	5	11	21	31	14	18	13	13	160	11
Rockhampton	8	4	41	9	33	102	54	22	24	24	30	351	
Gerald ..	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	2	.	5	
Longreach ..	.	1	.	1	1	11	3	1	3	1	.	22	
Central ..	8	5	41	10	34	114	57	24	28	27	30	378	37
Blackey ..	7	4	19	5	11	364	120	32	27	22	37	643	
Warr ..	.	1	10	.	.	18	5	1	5	2	2	44	
Wynnsville ..	5	7	26	1	4	14	12	13	12	13	13	120	
Wingham ..	.	.	.	.	.	11	9	.	3	.	.	23	
Windsfail ..	4	.	22	2	4	157	37	2	13	11	4	256	
Winds ..	8	.	58	3	2	120	27	5	11	11	14	259	
N. Coastal	24	12	135	11	21	684	210	53	71	59	70	1,350	89
Wentworth Towers	4	1	15	4	3	21	20	3	21	13	13	118	
Wentworth ..	.	.	4	.	.	1	14	1	2	2	3	27	
Wentworth ..	1	.	1	.	1	1	3	.	2	.	.	9	
North West	5	1	20	4	4	23	37	4	25	15	16	154	32
TOTAL STATE	74	96	583	76	189	1,181	650	278	373	242	344	4,086	38

TABLE II. PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND,
MAY, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including Mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building and Construction.	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously Employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	57	27	126	115	121	127	60	90	106	96	187	96	110	123	1,441
Rockhampton ..	13	3	3	1	5	9	.	3	1	4	.	2	4	9	57
Moreton ..	70	30	129	116	126	136	60	93	107	100	187	98	114	132	1,496
Empire ..	1	2	1	2	16	.	.	1	.	1	1	2	.	.	27
Wyborough ..	24	6	3	12	3	7	3	4	.	3	.	1	3	.	69
Wandenberg ..	185	12	14	86	9	42	35	6	7	21	2	13	4	14	450
E. Coastal ..	210	20	18	100	28	49	38	11	7	25	3	16	7	14	546
Bowamba ..	23	2	9	10	11	17	.	4	6	6	5	10	7	8	118
Rockhampton ..	4	.	2	3	1	2	.	.	.	1	1	2	.	4	20
Wandenberg ..	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	6
Warleville ..	11	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	16
Downs & S.W. ..	40	2	11	14	12	22	.	5	6	8	6	13	8	13	160
Rockhampton ..	35	12	10	125	10	54	15	7	20	20	3	13	14	13	351
Rockhampton ..	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	5
Rockhampton ..	14	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	1	22
Central ..	52	12	11	125	12	56	15	7	21	20	3	15	14	15	373
Rockhampton ..	254	11	9	160	17	85	2	17	9	28	5	21	15	15	648
Rockhampton ..	18	3	.	4	2	8	.	2	.	1	.	2	.	4	44
Wandenberg ..	9	1	8	17	8	16	3	5	7	10	10	11	4	11	120
Wandenberg ..	7	1	1	7	1	3	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	23
Wandenberg ..	121	10	4	50	11	20	18	5	1	7	.	7	1	1	256
Wandenberg ..	79	15	4	59	10	38	10	10	3	6	3	8	5	9	259
E. Coastal ..	488	41	26	297	49	170	35	39	20	52	18	50	25	40	1,350
Rockhampton ..	22	8	4	18	5	23	.	5	2	8	3	4	4	12	118
Rockhampton ..	3	4	.	1	.	9	.	5	1	2	.	.	.	2	27
Rockhampton ..	5	.	.	.	1	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
North West ..	30	12	4	19	6	34	.	11	3	10	3	4	4	14	154
ALL STATE ..	890	117	199	671	233	467	143	166	164	215	220	196	172	223	4,086

S/T 1980